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Cardenas.—Acting Asst. Surg. Enrique Saez reports that 6 deaths occurred in Cardenas during the week. The principal causes of deaths were as follows: Tuberculosis, 2; cancer, 1; hemophilia, 1; other causes, 2. No case of infectious or contagious character was reported during the week. The death rate during the week was 12.60 per 1,000. Five vessels were inspected and passed on arrival. Two bills of health were issued.

Isabela de Sagua.—Acting Asst. Surg. Pedro Garcia Riera reports that 17 vessels were inspected and passed on arrival. Eleven bills of health were issued to vessels leaving the port.

Caibaren.—Acting Asst. Surg. Leoncio Junco reports that the sanitary condition of the port and town is good. The death rate for the week was 2.01 per 1,000. Five vessels arrived during the week and were passed without inspection. Five bills of health were issued to vessels leaving the port.

Respectfully,

G. M. GUITÉRAS,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

A case of yellow fever at Matanzas.

MATANZAS, CUBA, *January 3, 1901.*

One case yellow fever reported; civilian.

GUITÉRAS.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Reports from Nuevitas, Puerto Padre, Gibara, and Baracoa.

NUEVITAS, CUBA, *December 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the week ended December 22, 1900: Seven vessels arrived during that period and 6 bills of health were issued; there were 2 deaths; the sanitary condition of the town is fairly good; the weather is dry, with warm days and cool night.

Puerto Padre.—Reports show arrival of 5 vessels, 4 bills of health issued, no deaths, and sanitary condition good.

Gibara.—Reports show arrival of 4 vessels, 4 bills of health issued, 1 death, and sanitary condition good.

Baracoa.—Reports show the arrival of 6 vessels, 5 bills of health issued, 7 deaths, and sanitary condition good. No quarantinable disease is reported at any point in the district.

Respectfully,

OWEN W. STONE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Reports from Santiago, Manzanillo, Guantanamo, and Daiquiri.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *December 20, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith sanitary report of the fourth quarantine division of the island of Cuba, under my command, for the week ended December 15, 1900:

Santiago.—During this period there was a total of 13 deaths reported,

a decrease of 6 from that of the previous week, making the annual death rate 15.72 per 1,000. The following were the chief causes of deaths: Enteric fever, 1; enteritis, chronic, 2; nephritis parenchymatous, 1; tuberculosis, 2; other causes, 7; total, 13. A number of cases of diphtheria have been reported in this city. All preventive measures against its spread are being taken by the board of health in quarantining the houses and disinfecting on discharge of the patients. December 15, 1900, Surg. A. H. Glennan, United States Marine-Hospital Service, arrived on the provisional flag steamship *Julia* and made inspection of the station. This vessel was disinfected and 24 immune certificates were issued to passengers prior to departure for Porto Rico.

Manzanillo.—Acting Asst. Surg. H. S. Caminero reports 4 deaths, due to the following causes: Meningitis, 1; old age, 1; athrepsia, 1; cirrhosis of the liver, 1; total, 4; annual rate of mortality, 14.38 per 1,000.

Guantanamo.—Acting Asst. Surg. Luis Espin reports 7 deaths, the principal causes being: Intermittent malarial fever, 2; pernicious malarial fever, 1; tuberculosis, 1; other causes, 3; total, 7; annual rate of mortality, 20.22 per 1,000. Two cases of diphtheria were reported, otherwise the health of the city is good.

Daiquiri.—Acting Asst. Surg. Juan J. de Jongh reports 1 death due to traumatic tetanus.

Respectfully,

R. H. VON EZDORF,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Report of treatment of passengers' baggage for the week ended December 15, 1900, port of Santiago de Cuba.

Date.	Name of vessel.	Disinfected and passed.						Inspected and passed.					
		Formaldehyd gas.				Steam.							
		Boxes.	Bundles.	Trunks.	Valises.	Bundles.	Trunks.	Valises.	Baskets.	Boxes.	Bundles.	Trunks.	Valises.
Dec. 10	Steamship Josefitia (baggage from Havana.)	.....	3	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....
Dec. 12	Steamship Mortera (baggage from Havana.)	.....	4	10	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dec. 15	Steamship Julia (baggage from Havana.)	.....		1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do....	Steamship Julia (baggage for Porto Rico.)	.....				14	5	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total.....	.....	7	12	4	14	5	2	.....	.....	.....	11	.....

Inspection of immigrants at Santiago during the week ended December 15, 1900.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *December 15, 1900.*

SIR: I herewith submit report of alien steerage passengers at this port during the week ended December 15, 1900:

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immi- grants
Dec. 12	Br. sc. Annie E. Wood.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	17
Dec. 13	Am. ss. Saratoga.....	New York via Nassau, New Province.....	1
Dec. 15	Provisional flag ss. Tomas Brooks ...	Port au Prince, Haiti	16
	Total.....	.....	34

Respectfully,

R. H. VON EZDORF,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FRANCE.

De Moura's experiments with rattlesnake venom as a cure for leprosy.

PARIS, FRANCE, *December 21, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that John Bale, London, has published "A Handbook of the Gnats or Mosquitoes, giving the anatomy and like history of the Culicidæ," by Maj. G. M. Giles, J. M. S., M. B., London, etc. It contains 374 pages and the price is 15 shillings. This book is reviewed in the December "Revue d'Hygiène" and spoken of as an authority on its subject. The presswork and cuts are criticised.

In "Le Bulletin Medical" of December 5 an article appeared on the curative value of rattlesnake poison for leprosy. I inclose a translation of the greater part of the same.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Ad. Marcoudes de Moura states that in Brazil the poison of the rattlesnake is considered a cure for leprosy. The natives bitten by this animal, after recovering from the intoxication, are always thereafter immune to leprosy. Wishing to investigate upon what this popular belief was based, this author collected the poison of a rattlesnake by squeezing out on a piece of cotton the contents of the poison glands. The cotton was then placed in a mixture of water and glycerin, equal parts. After having thus obtained a sufficient quantity of solution, he determined its approximative virulence by injecting dogs. He then gave daily, by the mouth, to 2 lepers, doses one-fifth of what would have been dangerous if injected. After some time he gave them injections, every two or three days, of one-tenth of this dangerous dose.

This treatment caused at first only fever and sweats, then, after some time, pains that necessitated lengthening the intervals between the injections. The results obtained by Mr. Marcoudes de Moura were excellent, especially when he employed injections. Of 15 cases treated (of which 14 were of the tubercular form) he did not have a single case of failure.

On this subject Mr. L. Servin published a criticism on this popular belief of the cure of leprosy by rattlesnake poison. He thinks it has no specific action on the cutaneous forms (determinations) of leprosy. He reports that a leper let a rattlesnake bite him on the hand. Twenty-four hours after the patient died. This fact proves that lepers are not immune to the poison of this serpent.